



THE

# KNIGHT



VOLUME 13, No. 1; Issue #72. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. Sept-Oct, 1990

## SAMOGITIAN "FAIR" CURRENCY NOTES ISSUED!! PRELUDE TO NEW LITAS CURRENCY??...

### Baltic states seek military decorations

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of COIN WORLD from the  
July 4, 1990 issue.

By J. Pearson Andrew  
London, England

The Baltic states have approached Spink & Son Ltd. in London through intermediaries regarding the restoration of pre-World War II civil and military decorations as well as the creation of new honors regarding current struggles with the Soviet Union.

The fight for independence in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia has led to these unusual inquiries at Spink, the medalists to the British royal family.

Stephen Dix, Spink's director of medal manufacture, stressed there would be no agreement with the republics (currently Soviet socialist republics) until the political situation in the Baltics is clear. There are considerable constitutional snags in restoring old orders.

Dix said: "No one could have foreseen this situation when these orders were set up after the first world war. There will obviously have to be some sort of decree in the republics."

There is no shortage of old decorations. Spink has knowledge of 10. None has been awarded since the states became part of the Soviet Union. Their general common theme is the use of strikingly ornate facets.

Included are Lithuania's Order of Gediminas, named after the grand duke who captured Kiev in 1321 and founded the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius in 1323; Estonia's Order of the White Star, its ultimate honor until 1940 and its Order of the Cross of the Black Eagle; and Latvia's Order of the Bear Slayer, awarded for valor during

By HENRY L. GAIDIS

Translations by V.L.G. Matelis



ABOVE: Obverse of 10 Litu Zemaitiu Juomarka Pinings note featuring the bust of Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas.

Some time ago this author was advised by a source in Lithuania that a series of novelty currency was being circulated in Lithuania, making fun of the Soviet Ruble and ridiculing the Soviets for not allowing the Lithuanians to re-issue their Litas currency. I have now acquired a series of five notes bearing the title "ZEMAITIU JUOMARKA PININGS" [Samoigitian Fair Money], dated December 2, 1989.

These notes were acquired from a Lithuanian visiting the U.S., and he, too, again voiced the comment that these notes were circulating in Lithuania to make fun of the Russians. If one literally translates the Zemaitian dialect Lithuanian words that appear on the notes, the reader would be lead to think that these were script notes for the city fair, having been purchased first at a central point with Soviet Rubles. Since two different and unrelated sources have advised these notes were printed in jest, this author has no reason to doubt that fact concerning their authenticity.

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Continued on page 8...



## SAMOGITIAN "FAIR" CURRENCY NOTES

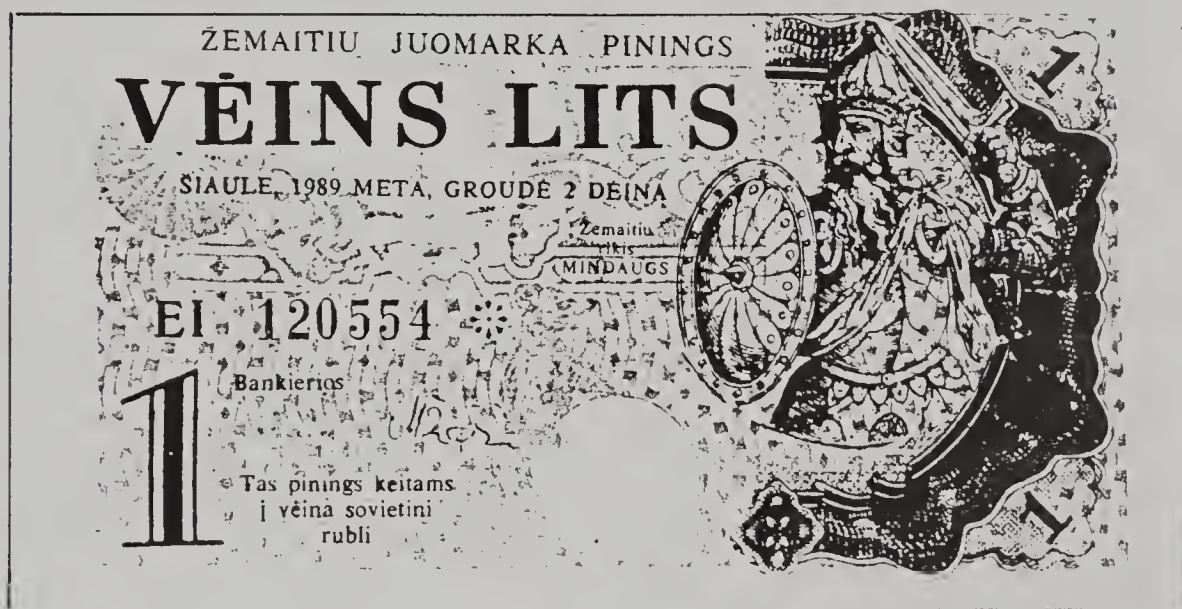
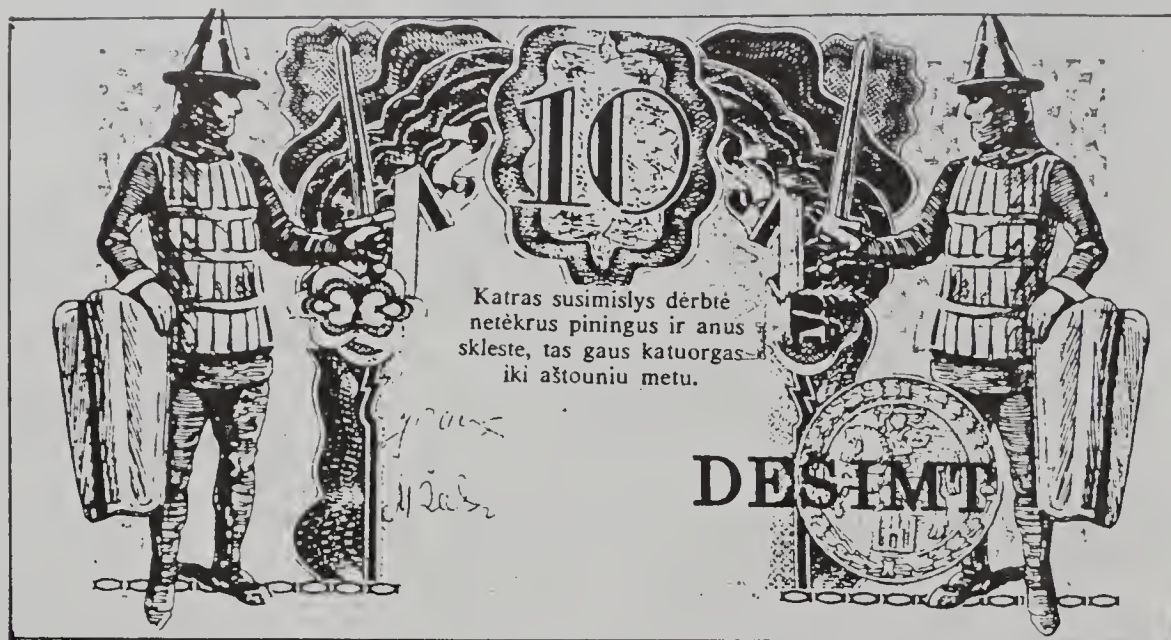
These novelty notes are printed of a high quality and are now beginning to appear in the United States. Our members should be aware of their existence and real character to prevent confusion with real Republic of Lithuania notes to be printed in the future.

By way of background information, the Zemaiciai (Samogitia) Region is located in western Lithuania. It's largest city is Siauliai (Siaule), from where these notes were issued. Incidentally, it was in Siauliai where the sculptor and designer of the U.S. Lincoln Cent, Victor David Brenner, was born and raised.

In the past, the Zemaiciai Region has been known in Lithuania for its archaic or backward characteristics and language dialect, similarly as many Americans look upon those from the Appalachian Mountain areas of Kentucky or Tennessee.

These fiercely independent people were the last pagans in Europe and to this day retain their own distinct dialect of Lithuanian. The Zemaitionians would not hesitate to issue their own currency if told not to by the Russians. This was probably the reason the unknown printers chose them as the source which issued these anti-Soviet notes. The distinct Zemaitionian dialect which has been used on the notes may be unfamiliar to some of our readers.

Across the face of the obverse of these notes is the identification nomenclature: "Zemaitiu Juomarka Pinings" with the issuance date and city: "Siaule, 1989 Meta, Groude 2 Deina."





This translates, "Siauliai, December 2, 1989." The notes bear double series letters, and numbers on those of the 1 litas and higher denominations. Notes were printed in denominations of 10 and 50 centu; and 1, 5, and 10 Litu.

The 10 and 50 Centu notes utilize the traditional standing bear insignia of the Samogitian region on the obverse.

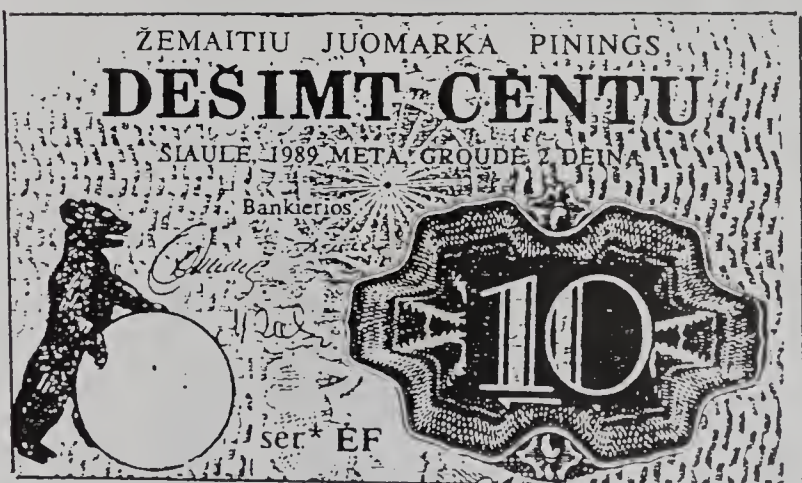
The reverse of the 10 Centu bears an illustration of three mounted horsemen, while the 50 Centu note depicts a Lithuanian maiden standing in front of her homestead watching a Viking-like vessel sailing by.

Each bears a conversion statement, "This money is changeable into 5-10 Soviet kopecks," and a counterfeiting clause which translates, "Counterfeiting money is punishable by prison."

The 1 Litai note features a bust of Lithuanian Grand Duke Mindaugas; Grand Duke Vytenis on the 5 Litai, with Grand Duke Gediminas on the 10 Litu.



ABOVE: 5 Litai note featuring Duke Vytenis. Below: 10 Centu note with the Samogitian Bear on the obverse, and horsemen on the reverse.



On the reverses of the 1, 5, and 10 Litu are found depictions of ancient Lithuanian warriors, and a reverse of a gold Lithuanian 10 ducat featuring the national insignia VYTIS (The Knight) and the Columns of Gediminas emblem. (Continued next page...)





## SAMOGITIAN CURRENCY

Continued from page 3...

The counterfeiting clause on the Litu notes is more detailed. It translates, "Whoever thinks about printing false money and spreads them about, that person will earn eight years in slave labor in jail."

Although not real currency, the Zemaitiu Juomarka Pinings notes make a welcome new addition to a collection while we all anxiously await the issuance of a new series of real Lithuanian Litas notes by a free and independent Lithuania.



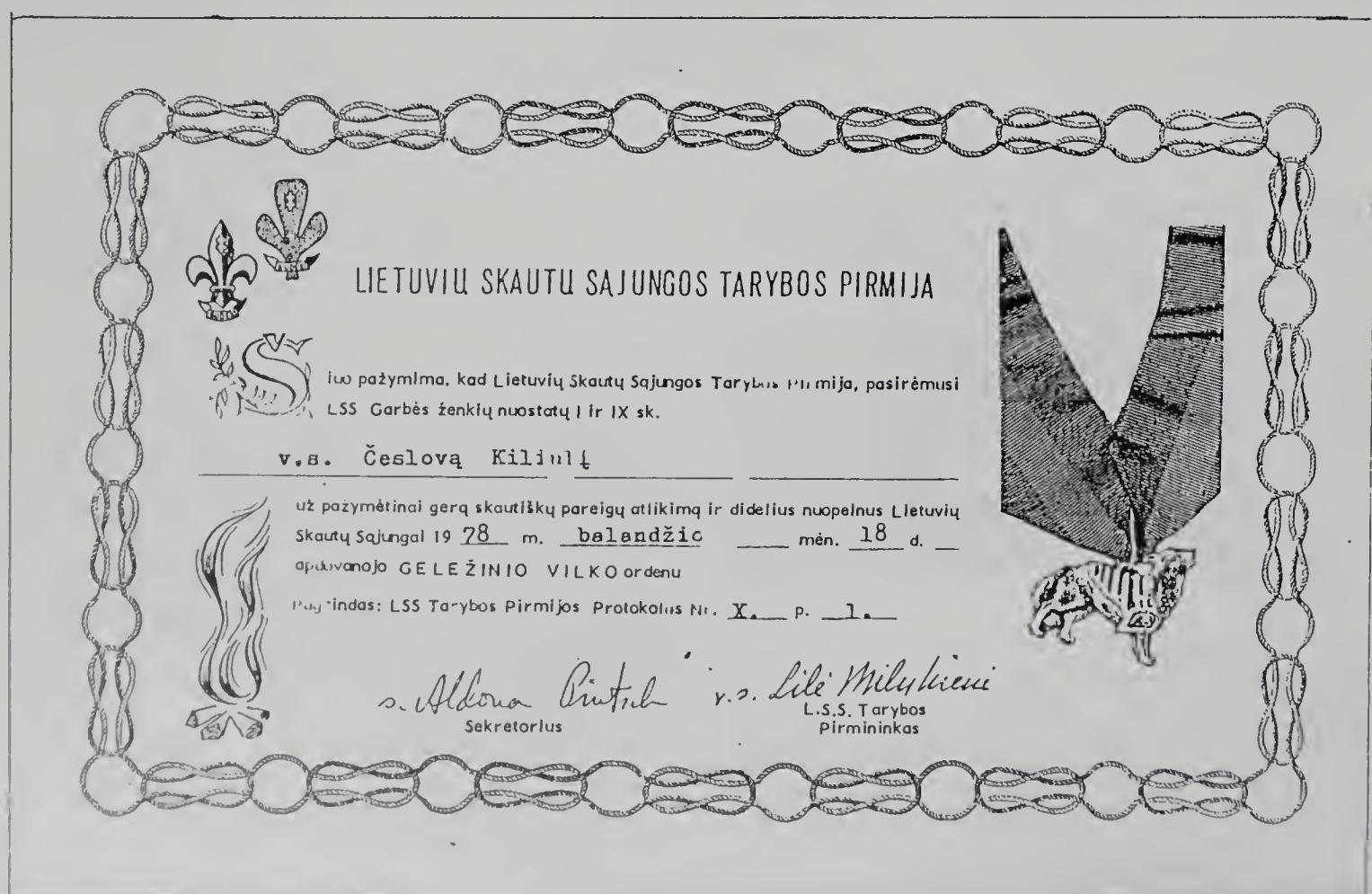
## AN INTRODUCTION TO LITHUANIAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION MEDALS

Continued with our series on Lithuanian Scout Decorations, illustrated below is a certificate for the Order of the Iron Wolf. It is translated as follows:

"LITHUANIAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION SUPREME COUNCIL. Hereby we state that the Lithuanian Scout Association Supreme Council to lean upon the Lithuanian Scout Association for bestowing honor according to articles of the association rule 1 and 9 Ceslova Kiliuli For outstanding devotion and service to Scouting tradition and its merit to Lithuanian Scout Association April 18, 1978. Awarded the ORDER OF THE IRON WOLF. The base of bestowing this order Lithuanian Scout Association Supreme Council protocol number 10 paragraph 1. Secretary. Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman. "

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis

(Continued from last issue...)



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 \*-Donation in excess of  
   Basic membership fee  
 I-Institutional  
 CM-Charter Member

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(plus a few members in LITHUANIA)

#### LNA TREASURER'S REPORT 1989-1990

Beginning balance 6/1/89: \$598.58.

INCOME: Dues/Donations: \$1549.00. Adver-  
 tising: 25.00. TOTAL: \$1,574.00.

EXPENSES: Printing: 983.71. Supplies:  
 101.60. Postage: 390.44. ANA Dues: 30.00.  
 P.O. Box: 28.00. TOTAL: \$1,533.75

ENDING BALANCE 5/31/90: \$638.83

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 This has been a big year for Lith-  
 uanian Numismatics, as we have seen our  
 hobby "come alive" with the independence  
 movement in Lithuania. We we able to  
 publish a special Independence Issue,  
 and hopefully more such new items will  
 be reported in the months to come.

If you know of someone who might  
 like a sample issue of **The Knight**, let us  
 know. We have leaflets you can sign  
 a person up to join the LNA.

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# LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY



BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by  
V.L.G. Matelis

Continued from last issue...



Necessity Money notes.

Bėdos notas: 1, pranc. lošiamųjų kortų "notos" Kanadoje (XVIII a.); 2, caru Rusijos pašto ženklų "smulkieji" (1915-17); 3, rusų porevoliucinė nota (1919); 4, Klaipėdos krašto "bėdos nota" (1922); 5, Vokietijos Reicho banknotas 1000 milijardų markių "vertės" (1923); 6, Vengrijos 1946 nota 100.000.000.000.000.000.000 pengu (pavyzdžiai, išsk. 2, sumažinti).

(Biblical Coins, continued...) silver and gold (talents, shekels, half of the latter and smaller parts); b) with Persian, Greek and Roman, etc. coins. Clearly "domestic" coins appeared in Judea at the end of the second century of the old era. The leader of the Jewish senate and Chief Priest John Hyrcanus (S. Maccabeus' son) struck his own lepton. This was followed by leptons of Alexander and other Israelite leaders. After becoming a Roman province. Roman coins circulated widely in Judea. However, King Herod I and his heirs permitted local coinage, but not with Hebrew lettering, but inscriptions in the Greek language. Entirely new, national Jewish coins, silver and bronze shekels and their halves were struck during the time of the first revolt against the Romans (66-70 A.D.). The second revolt (132-135) gave a series of overstrikes. The Jewish leader, Bar Kochba struck Jewish shekels and its parts upon Greek and Roman coins. During the time of this Jewish revolt, Judea was completely destroyed by the Romans, and even its name was forgotten. Beginning in 135 A.D., the Jewish diaspora (dispersion) started. At least part of the nation was gathered together again in the newly established nation of Israel after 1800 years.





Biblijos pinigai. A.

1, Persijos sid. siglos; 2. Tiro šekelis (V-IV a. sen. eros); 3. Makedonijos Aleksandro stateris; 4. Sirijos Antiocho tetradrachma (II a. sen. eros); 5, pirmoji Judėjos (J. Hirkano, 135-106) moneta; 6, Romos Imperat. Tiberijaus (pradž. I a. nauj. eros) denaras — ... „...kas ciesoriaus — ciesoriui...“; 7, Pont. Piloto (26-36 nauj. eros, 16-kos metų jo viešpatavimo Judėjoje) lepton; 8, pirmojo žydų sukilimo (66-70) šekelis; 9, Romos Imperat. Titus (Vespasianus) bronz. sestercija 72 nauj. eros (po žydų sukil. numalšinimo: romėnų karys saugo liūdinčią žydę, o mon. legenda liudija: „Judea capta“ — Judeja nugalėta); 10. Nepriklausomo Izraelio 1949 moneta 1 prutah denominac.

It is characteristic that the well-known "30 pieces of silver" with which the traitor Judas Iscariot sold Christ, was filled not with Judea's but with coins of other countries, assumed by competent scholars, shekels of Tyre, and tetradrachms of Rhodes and Syria. Of course, the "money" mentioned in the New Testament was without a doubt the coin or "denar" of the Romans.



Biblijos pinigai. B.

„Judo sidabriniai“: 1. Tiro šekelis (33-32 sen. eros); 2. Sirijos tetradrachma (4-3 m. sen. eros); 3. Rhodos tetradrachma.

BIGA. See Vezimas.

BILONAS/Billon. A copper of silver (plus some tin, zinc and other base metal) bar, in which the precious metal does not constitute half of the entire bar. When base metals of such bars constitute 75% and more, we have a black billon.

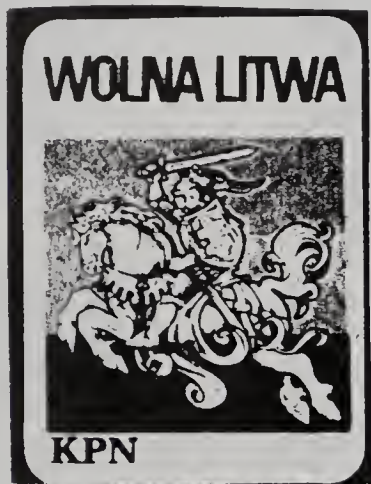
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

## LETTERS

Thank you very much for sending me The Knight. I have been so interested about all those affairs which have been happening in Lithuania. But you know our Lithuania is blockaded by the Soviets. In Poland we've wanted to help those brave people who have fought for their freedom.

I am enclosing in this letter a special mark "Wolna Litwa" [Freedom for Lithuania]. Our people sell them for a special fund for Free Lithuania. I'm so glad that in this fight we are together: Lithuanians and Poles.

I've showed your special issue of The Knight with models of new Lithuanian coins to my collector friends, and they were very well pleased with them.



Best Regards,  
Janusz Hrybacz  
Gorzow Wlkp, Poland

Note: The special badges illustrated at left is made of white plastic, with a white Vytis emblem in the center, and the yellow-green-red Lithuanian flag in the background.

## Baltic states decorations

Continued from page one...

the war for independence of 1918-19 against the Soviets and named after Lacplėsis, a mythical figure symbolizing Latvian strength and bravery.

Whatever happens in the Baltic states, it is unlikely all the orders will be restored.

Dix said: "The economic situation would not allow it. I expect they will choose the one order which is most emotive in terms of their country's history."

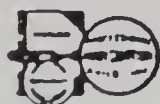
Lithuania still has a legation in London. Its charge d'affaires is Vincas Balickas, who represented his country's pre-war government since 1938 when the old orders still existed. He is delighted and optimistic.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that decorations like the Order of Gediminas will one day be restored," he said when the approach to Spink was made public. ■

Coming Next Issue: An article by Peter Horvitz about more Pennsylvania Lithuanian Lodge tokens.



DECORATIONS of the three Baltic republics, such as this piece of Lithuania, may be made in the future by Spink in London.



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